

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 NSC-05 /056 W
----- 120771

R 220445Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6224

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, XZ, SW

SUBJECT: NORDIC DISPLEASURE OVER ORIT

REF: MEXICO 9195; EC BRUSSELS 10065; COPENHAGEN 3262

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: NORDIC UNIONS WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT AGAINST AFL-CIO MEMBERSHIP IN ORIT WHICH IS SAID TO VIOLATE ICFTU CONSTITUTION. HOWEVER, CAMPAIGN IS NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT. END SUMMARY.

2. AT LUNCHEON WITH LABATT, LO INTER-NATIONAL SECRETARY THORBJORN CARLSSON REFERRED TO NORDIC UNIONS' CAMPAIGN AGAINST AFL-CIO DOMINATION OF ORIT (ICFTU REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR LATIN AMERICA). DESPITE
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SETBACK SUFFERED AT ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

PRIOR TO CONGRESS IN MEXICO CITY (SEE REFTELS), CARLSSON DECLARED THAT NORDIC GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO AGITATE WITHIN ICFTU FOR MORE AGGRESSIVE POLICY AIMED EITHER AT BARRING AFL-CIO FROM ORIT OR AT LEAST SHARPLY REDUCING ITS INFLUENCE. HE MAINTAINED THAT AFL-CIO PRESENCE WITHIN ORIT IS CONTRARY TO ICFTU CONSTITUTION WHICH REQUIRES THAT MEMBERS OF ICFTU REGIONAL BODIES ALSO BE AFFILIATED WITH ICFTU ITSELF. FACT THAT ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MADE EXCEPTION IN CASE OF AFL-CIO, HE ADDED, WAS AN IRREGULARITY BECAUSE BOARD DID NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO, IN EFFECT, AMEND CONSTITUTION. CARLSSON SAID NORDIC UNIONS WILL MAKE HEAVY USE OF THIS ARGUMENT IN PRESSING ICFTU TO INTERVENE MORE VIGOROUSLY AND DECISIVELY IN ORIT AFFAIRS AND, AS ADDITIONAL PRESSURE TACTIC, THEY WILL INSIST THAT ALL FUTURE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ORIT FROM ICFTU SOLIDARITY FUND MUST FIRST RECEIVE THEIR CLEARANCE.

3. CARLSSON WENT ON TO ADMIT, HOWEVER, THAT NORDIC GROUP IS ALMOST CERTAINLY FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE. MONEY TALKS, HE OBSERVED WITH RUEFUL LAUGH, AND AFL-CIO IS VIRTUALLY UNASSAILABLE AS LONG AS IT CONTINUES TO PAY MOST OF ORIT BILLS. HE PREDICATED ACCORDINGLY THAT EXTRAORDINARY ORIT CONGRESS WOULD RESULT IN LITTLE MORE THAN "COSMETIC" CHANGES THAT WILL LEAVE AFL-CIO/ORIT RELATIONSHIP BASICALLY UNALTERED. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, OPPOSITION TO ADMISSION, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STOCKH05923
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750407-0764
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751119/aaaaaqnp.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 9195, 75 EC BRUSSELS 10065, 75 COPENHAGEN 3262
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORDIC DISPLEASURE OVER ORIT
TAGS: ELAB, XZ, SW, US, ICFTU, AFL-CIO, ORIT, (CARLSSON, THORBJORN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006